

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
PERFORMANCE OF GRAIN BANKS SCHEME
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Grain Banks Scheme being implemented in the tribal areas in the country for providing food security;
- (b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the impact of the scheme in providing food security;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to extend this scheme to the entire country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 03.12.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The Village Grain Banks Scheme is being implemented by the Department of Food and Public Distribution from 2005-06 in chronically food scarce areas like drought/natural calamity prone areas, the tribal areas, hot and cold deserts and far flung inaccessible hilly areas. Under the scheme, 30 - 40 Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families can set up grain banks in a village identified by a State Government in tribal and non-tribal areas. The Village Grain Banks are to be managed by Village Panchayats, Women's Self Help Groups and Non-Governmental Organizations.

The objective of the scheme is to provide a safeguard against starvation during periods of natural calamity or lean season when food insecure households do not have sufficient resources to purchase food. Such households can borrow foodgrains from the Grain banks.

The scheme has foodgrains component and cash component. Government releases foodgrains @ one quintal per member family as one time grant to the grain bank. For weights and measures, storage bins, training of member families and transportation, the Government releases funds as one time grant.

Details of Village Grain Banks sanctioned and funds for them released by the Department of Food and Public Distribution are given in Annex.

(b) & (c): The Department is getting the scheme evaluated by World Food Programme in Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The evaluation has not been completed.

(d) & (e): The scheme is applicable to all States and Union Territories. Its implementation during the 11th Plan period has been approved.